



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	TULE LAKE, California	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX90DXQ03
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	August 4, 1990, 08:40 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N45116
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Air Tractor AT-401	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 137: Agricultural		

## Analysis

THE ENGINE QUIT WHEN THE PILOT PULLED UP TO MAKE ANOTHER SPRAY RUN. THE PILOT LANDED IN A FIELD AND COLLIDED WITH A 12 INCH WATER LINE. THE LANDING GEAR COLLAPSED AND THE AIRCRAFT NOSED OVER. EXAMINATION FOUND THE RIGHT MAGNETO MISSING APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT OF THE TEETH FROM THE DISTRIBUTOR GEAR.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: AN ENGINE FAILURE DUE TO MECHANICAL FAILURE OF THE DISTRIBUTOR.

### Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - MECH FAILURE/MALF  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - AERIAL APPLICATION

#### Findings

1. (C) IGNITION SYSTEM,DISTRIBUTOR - FAILURE,TOTAL

Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Occurrence #3: MAIN GEAR COLLAPSED  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

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Occurrence #4: NOSE OVER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	48, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Center
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	May 2, 1990
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	6187 hours (Total, all aircraft), 260 hours (Total, this make and model), 6187 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 260 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 145 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Air Tractor	<b>Registration:</b>	N45116
<b>Model/Series:</b>	AT-401 AT-401	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Restricted (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	401-0752
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	April 12, 1990 Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	6000 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	301 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	301 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	P&W
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	R1340 AN1
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	MACY'S FLYING SERVICE INC	<b>Rated Power:</b>	600 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	MACYS FLYING SERVICE INC.	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	MFAG

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	0°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	21°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>		<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	08:30 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	0 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	0 ft / 0 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Forced landing

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	41.799182,-121.460441(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Roche, Hugh

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:** November 23, 1992

**Last Revision Date:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class](#)

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=26590>

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